

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:ISILINS:LM

APPROVED BY EUR - J. A. ARMITAGE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220281

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CVIS, RO, IS

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN JEWISH EMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

1. ISRAELI MINISTER DAVID PEDAHZUR CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE TO DISCUSS CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON ROMANIAN MFN/WAIVER EXTENSION AND JEWISH EMIGRATION. PEDAHZUR WANTED TO STRESS THAT ISRAELIS ARE NOT RPT NOT SATISFIED WITH ROMANIAN PERFORMANCE ON JEWISH EMIGRATION AND ASKED WHETHER WE WERE PREPARED TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS SATISFACTORY DURING HEARINGS.

2. ARMITAGE SAID WE DID NOT WISH TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS UNSATISFACTORY BECAUSE THAT WOULD IMPLY WE DID NOT FAVOR EXTENSION OF WAIVER. ON THE OTHER HAND, NEITHER DID WE INTEND TO SAY IT WAS SATISFACTORY, BECAUSE IT OBVIOUSLY LEFT A GOOD DEAL TO BE DESIRED. IN HIS TESTIMONY SEPTEMBER 8, ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN INTENDED TO BE FRANK AND STRAIGHTFORWARD IN DESCRIBING ROMANIAN EMIGRATION POLICY FOR WHAT IT IS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME URGING EXTENSION OF THE WAIVER AS DESIRABLE FOR BOTH FOREIGN POLICY AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS. ARMITAGE URGED PEDAHZUR TO AVOID CHARACTERIZING TO CONGRESS

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ROMANIAN EMIGRATION PERFORMANCE AS "NOT SATISFACTORY," NOTING THAT THIS WOULD AMOUNT TO OPPOSING WAIVER EXTENSION WHICH WAS BELIEVED GOI SHOULD SUPPORT AS IN COMMON INTEREST. PEDAHZUR SAID ISRAELI EMBASSY WOULD NOT TERM SITUATION "UNSATISFACTORY" TO CONGRESS BUT DID NOT AGREE TO UNDERTAKE TO TAKE PRO-WAIVER POSITION WITH CONGRESS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO ARMITAGE'S STATEMENT THAT WE STILL HAVE DIFFICULTY DETERMINING WHAT LEVEL OF JEWISH EMIGRATION COULD BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY, PEDAHZUR REFERRED TO 1974 ANNUAL LEVEL OF 3700 DEPARTURES AS A BENCHMARK. HE SAID THERE ARE ABOUT 12,000 JEWS IN ROMANIA "STANDING IN LINE" TO EMIGRATE, AND AN ADDITIONAL 16,000 POTENTIAL JEWISH EMIGRANTS. ROBINSON

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